

## Function 250: General Science, Space, and Technology

This function includes the National Science Foundation (NSF), programs at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) except for aviation programs, and general science programs at the Department of Energy (DOE).

The House Republican budget includes \$22.6 billion for appropriated programs for 2003, almost exactly CBO's estimate of the level needed to maintain constant purchasing power. This is \$189 million more for science funding than the President's budget.<sup>10</sup>

- **NASA** — The President's budget provides \$14.2 billion for NASA programs in this function, which is \$129 million below CBO's estimate of the amount needed to maintain current purchasing power. (NASA receives additional funding in Function 400.)
- **DOE General Science Programs** — The President's budget freezes funding at the 2002 enacted level of \$3.3 billion for general science programs in DOE, which is \$18 million below CBO's estimate of the amount needed to maintain constant purchasing power.
- **National Science Foundation** — The President's budget for 2003 provides \$5.0 billion for appropriated programs in NSF, an increase of \$152 million above CBO's estimate of the amount needed to maintain purchasing power at the 2002 level. However, this increase incorporates \$76 million for three programs that the budget transfers to NSF. Thus, the increase is only \$76 million (1.6 percent) over the amount needed to maintain purchasing power at the 2002 level.
- **House Republican Budget** — The House Republican budget gives NSF an extra \$189 million above the President's level, providing NSF with an increase of \$345 million (7.3 percent) over the 2002 enacted level. The Republican resolution leaves DOE general science and NASA funding below the amount needed to maintain purchasing power at the 2002 level.

**Democrats Offer Additional Science Funding** — During Committee consideration of the Republican resolution, the Democrats offered an amendment to provide \$535 million more for science funding for 2003. This would have supported a 2.4 percent increase above the House Republican level; every Republican voted against the amendment, which was defeated.

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<sup>10</sup>The President's budget also displays \$120 million in this function to account for the full cost of accruing all pensions, retired pay, and retiree health benefits for employees. This amount reflects only an accounting change and does not represent a programmatic increase. See *Appropriated Programs and Creative Accounting* for further discussion.